

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (Budget Connect) OF THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER, ARIZONA, held in the Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago St., on Thursday, February 26, 2014.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JAY TIBSHRAENY AT 6:00 P.M.

The following members were present:	Jay Tibshraeny	Mayor
	Kevin Hartke	Vice-Mayor
	Rick Heumann	Councilmember
	Jack Sellers	Councilmember
	Terry Roe	Councilmember
	René Lopez	Councilmember
	Nora Ellen	Councilmember

Mayor Tibshraeny explained the budget process is a year-round process and this year, from mid-December to mid-January, residents had access to an online budget survey. This year approximately 450 responses have been received.

Mayor Tibshraeny read a question received as part of the online budget survey. "I often see sports fields that are not in use. Why does the City feel it needs to add more parks?" Mayor asked Director of Neighborhood and Community Services Jennifer Morrison to address this comment.

MS. MORRISON stated that while someone may see a ball field not in use, the City actually had over 4,000 reservations in 2014 for these fields. Over the last couple of years the City has received many calls regarding the less than desired condition of several fields. She explained the city has a very specific "rest and recovery" program in place for these fields, and it may be during this time, the rest and recovery period, that this comment refers to. As far as why Chandler has so many parks, parks improve the quality of life in a community. It is a highly sought after and considered element of the City when people are looking to move into an area. The City has a goal of providing a neighborhood park of 10 acres for every square mile of development.

MAYOR TIBSHRAENY read another comment/suggestion from the survey. "I feel as though crime has increased in Chandler over the last few years. We need to focus more on police patrols and reducing crime." Mayor asked Police Chief Duggan to address this.

POLICE CHIEF DUGGAN stated there was a 5.3% reduction in crime last year from the 2013 year. It is significant as 2013 is one of the lowest crime years in 30 years. He noted leveraging and utilizing new technologies, advancement in forensic science and data driven policing have helped reduce that number. One of the other components that played a key role is the level of partnership and engagement with the community. He gave an example of using social media to help connect a large volume of citizens in helping to identify and report leads.

MAYOR TIBSHRAENY thanked the Chief and announced that residents can now text Chandler PD as another tool for access.

VICE MAYOR HARTKE said that social media can also affect the perception about crime occurring. Chief Duggan said crime prevention officers are established in each precinct as a direct conduit to the community and their respective geographical areas.

BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS:

BUDGET MANAGER GREG WESTRUM said the annual citizen budget survey was recently conducted with over 450 responses received. The survey covered many topics. One of the purposes of the survey is to find out how the city is performing. He stated 98% respondents said the city is performing “excellent, very good or satisfactory”. He noted 97% respondents say the quality of life in Chandler is either “excellent or very good”. While 86% believe they get a good return on their various tax dollars.

He explained the second section of the survey asked the respondents to rate some of the various services the city performs. He said a sampling includes fire emergency, police patrol, transportation, street maintenance and traffic management, leisure, cultural and youth activities and library.

The final section of the survey allowed the citizens to comment on issues or priorities that were of particular interest to them and those responses have been distributed. The entire survey and results are online at the city’s website.

MAYOR read a message received from a Twitter account. The message reads, “Parking garages in downtown Chandler. Revamp the business district to draw more pedestrian traffic.”

KIM MOYERS, Downtown Redevelopment Manager said there are currently 3 parking garages on the east side of Arizona Avenue. With those, in addition to the surface parking, there are about 3800 spaces available in the downtown area. A study was performed by Carl Walker to study the parking needs. The study suggested there is adequate parking, but it is not distributed properly. One recommendation is to work on an improved pedestrian flow with improved signage.

COUNCILMEMBER HEUMANN said he isn’t sure that people are aware that parking is free. Ms. Moyers said the signage needs to be improved to get the message out.

Ms. Moyers explained regarding entertainment, Downtown Chandler was designated as an Entertainment District in the Fall of 2014. There have been a few successes with Improv Mania on Arizona, and Burst of Butterflies on Boston Street. On city-owned property at the corner of Arizona Avenue and Chandler Boulevard there is a proposal being worked to bring a cinema and restaurants downtown.

MAYOR read a Facebook submittal that asked “With all of our recent growth, how does it affect our water supplies.” MUNICIPAL UTILITIES DIRECTOR DAVE SIEGEL explained the Department of Water Resources requires Chandler to have a 100 year assured water supply. In 2010, Chandler was rededicated with our 100 year. Part of the calculation is projected water demand for build out. Staff constantly monitors and in 2012 the projected build out was updated. It has again recently been completed. Work is done closely with both the Planning and Economic Development which helps to monitor future demand.

MAYOR read another comment “It would be cool to someday see light rail in downtown Chandler”. TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR R.J. ZEDER responded that the Council recently approved an intergovernmental agreement with Valley Metro and the City of Mesa in working on the Fiesta Downtown Chandler Corridor Study. The goal is to work jointly with these entities. Other options besides light rail will also be looked at. The study will take 18 months to 2 years with the goal of connecting to the east/west line that runs through Mesa.

BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN OVERVIEW:

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR DAWN LANG explained there are several ways the city solicits feedback through survey, Budget Connect, Council's budget briefing. Public hearings will be held May 28 and June 11 and the property tax levy will be adopted on June 25. Throughout the process, staff receives direction from the City Council through two budget workshops.

Ms. Lang displayed 7 years of budget history for both capital and operating. Beginning in 2008-09, Chandler had a \$1 billion budget. From 2009-10 through 2011-12, there were dramatic reductions due to the Great Recession. Chandler is now in a phase of slow, moderate growth as the economy stabilizes.

She stated it is important to keep the budget structurally balanced and monitor and address legislative impacts. During the last legislative process, a bill was passed that requires the State to take over the collection of sales tax. This will be a very large change and could have a financial impact. She said during this session, HB2254 is very concerning to the city relating to sales tax collection on residential rental. This could have a big impact on the ongoing revenue streams and service levels into the future. Ms. Lang explained the various sources of revenues and the various services it supports.

Ms. Lang discussed the property tax bill allocation. She stated that 10 cents for each dollar paid on the property tax is for the City. The other portion is supporting school districts, college districts and other districts. She noted last year Chandler's portion was 13 cents for each dollar.

MR. GREG WESTRUM reviewed the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the process. He stated the Capital Improvement Program is a 10 year outlook. The challenges for the CIP are: some monies have reduced as growth has slowed down, less availability of federal grants, and reduction in bond capacity as assessed value drops. Mr. Westrum noted that the biggest category in the current year is the capital maintenance and highlighted a few new projects being accomplished.

MAYOR read a question received via Facebook. "With all this focus on high paying STEM jobs for example, what is our city's commitment to a variety of jobs with diverse pay scales and working hours so that all types of our population can benefit."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MICAH MIRANDA said the focus on STEM jobs is a strategic commitment on behalf of the city to the overall economy. For every one STEM job created, there are approximately four indirect jobs that are created as a result. He stated it is a more appropriate use of resources to focus on those industries that provide the highest and best long term overall benefit to the economy.

The MAYOR read the next question: "A stronger focus needs to be placed on a healthy community. Walkability, bike-ability are critical. We need improved access to recreational amenities."

PLANNING MANAGER JEFF KURTZ said the General Plan Citizens Oversight Committee will meet next week. There will be many opportunities for citizen engagement as an opportunity for residents to provide input on items such as these. Mr. Kurtz said while it's not a required element by name of the plan, these types of uses are invasive throughout the document. In response to a question from the Mayor, Mr. Kurtz said there will be a community planning lab, although the General Plan website will be the primary way to communicate the process.

MAYOR read the next question: "Can Arrowhead Pool or Desert Oasis Aquatic Center be opened up to year round lap swim?" MS. JENNIFER MORRISON replied that the cost to heat a pool such as those mentioned is \$60,000 - \$90,000 program. Ms. Morrison said a budget request would be placed for the 2016-17 budget year.

COUNCILMEMBER HEUMANN noted there is one pool open for year round lap swim at Hamilton.

The MAYOR read a comment that expressed appreciation for the budget survey and asked for more information about the various projects being considered. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MATT BURDICK responded the "newsroom" and "e-mail subscription service" are just two ways to keep informed and those two options are available through the city's website.

The MAYOR expressed his appreciation for the participation. He stated comments may continue to be submitted through the city's website through next week.

COUNCILMEMBER SELLERS said he appreciates that we continuously look for ways to improve processes and services to the residents. He congratulated the Mayor for encouraging additional feedback and inclusion in the budget process.

VICE MAYOR HARTKE expressed his appreciation for the input from the citizenry. He reiterated the concern with the rental tax bill that will reduce the money available to the cities. He encouraged residents to talk to their legislators about HB2254 and encourage them to vote no.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk Mayor

Approved: March 12, 2015

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of Chandler, Arizona, held on the 26th day of February 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this _____ day of March, 2015.

City Clerk